

BULLETIN
OF
THE EVERETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1976)



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BULLETIN
OF
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THE EVERETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEDICATES THIS BULLETIN TO ITS
MANY FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS ON
THE OCCASION OF THE SOCIETY'S
TENTH ANNIVERSARY.

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MEETINGS

THE SOCIETY MEETS IN SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER, MARCH AND
MAY OF EACH YEAR.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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SUPPORTED, IN PART, BY THE
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ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL. THIS BULLETIN,
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS ARTS LOTTERY AND THE
EVERETT ARTS LOTTERY COUNCIL.

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A WORD ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MARICA ARVANITES IS A LIFE-LONG RESIDENT OF EVERETT. SHE ATTENDED THE EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND GRADUATED FROM EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL. SHE RECEIVED A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION; A MASTER'S DEGREE OF EDUCATION IN READING; AND A DOCTORATE DEGREE IN EDUCATION FROM BOSTON UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION.

DR. ARVANITES IS CURRENTLY TEACHING READING AT THE ALBERT N. PARLIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN EVERETT. SHE IS DIRECTOR OF THE READING CLINIC FOR CHILDREN AND AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE. SHE IS PAST PRESIDENT OF PI LAMBDA THETA, A NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN EDUCATION, AFFILIATED WITH BOSTON UNIVERSITY.

CURRENTLY, DR. ARVANITES IS SERVING ON THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ALUMNI BOARD AS A DIRECTOR OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY READING EDUCATORS, AND AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF NEW ENGLAND.

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THE GREEK CULTURE OF EVERETT

BY

MARICA ARVANITES, ED.D.

APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO

STEVE ALEPIDIS, PETER OTIS, OLYMPIA GOCHIS STRATIS,
JAMES C. ARVANITES, JR., AND TO THE LATE
MICHAEL GOCHIS.

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THE GREEK CULTURE OF EVERETT

FOR THE THOUSANDS OF GREEKS WHO IMMIGRATED TO THIS COUNTRY DURING THE LATE NINETEENTH AND THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, AMERICA REPRESENTED A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY AND AN ESCAPE FROM THE HARDSHIPS AND ECONOMIC BONDAGES OF THE OLD WORLD. ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES WITH OFTEN NOTHING MORE THAN THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS AND A MERE FIVE OR TEN DOLLARS TUCKED IN THEIR POCKETS, THESE GREEKS HAD A TREMENDOUS DESIRE TO SUCCEED.

LURED TO THE NORTHEAST AND MIDWEST, THESE GREEKS WERE FORCED AT FIRST TO WORK AS DISHWASHERS, BELLBOYS AND AS LABORERS IN THE TEXTILE MILLS AND ON THE RAILROADS.

EVENTUALLY FAMILY OBLIGATIONS FORCED SOME TO RETURN TO GREECE WHILE OTHERS, DETERMINED TO LIVE THEIR SUCCESS IN AMERICA, USED THEIR NEW FOUND WEALTH TO START THEIR OWN BUSINESSES.

AS TIME WENT ON THE GREEKS DISPERSED THROUGHOUT VARIOUS CITIES. ONLY A FEW MOVED INTO EVERETT, WHICH WAS AT THE START OF THIS CENTURY, A TOWN OF DIRT STREETS, HORSEDRAWN CARRIAGES AND GAS LAMPS THAT ILLUMINATED STREET CORNERS. THE ONLY SIGN OF MODERNIZATION WAS THE T-TRAIN WHICH SKIRTED DOWN THE TROLLEY TRACKS THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF BROADWAY. IT WAS WITHIN THESE SURROUNDINGS THAT THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF EVERETT BEGAN.

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THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF EVERETT CONSISTS OF A SMALL BUT UNIQUE GROUP OF PEOPLE. TO UNDERSTAND THE GREEK COMMUNITY ONE MUST START FROM THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, GREECE.

GREECE FORMS THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE BALKAN PENINSULA EXTENDING OUT INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. THE IONIAN SEA LIES ON THE WEST AND THE AEGEAN SEA ON THE EAST. GREECE CONSISTS OF THE MAINLAND AND THE GREEK ISLANDS. THE MAINLAND IS DIVIDED INTO THREE REGIONS, NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN GREECE. CENTRAL GREECE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AREA. IT IS HERE THAT ATHENS, THE CENTER OF ANCIENT GREEK CIVILIZATION, IS LOCATED. THE TERRAIN OF GREECE IS BASICALLY MOUNTAINOUS. THE MILD MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE IS CONDUCIVE TO GROWING OLIVES, CITRUS FRUITS, GRAPES, FIGS AND TOBACCO. THUS, THE MAJOR OCCUPATION IS FARMING.

LIFE IN GREECE WAS DIFFICULT. A TWO CLASS SYSTEM EXISTED, THE RICH AND THE POOR. THE RICH HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION AND ADVANCEMENT. THE POOR STRUGGLED BY WORKING ON FARMS. ECONOMICALLY AND EDUCATIONALLY THERE WERE LITTLE, IF ANY, OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT.

HOWEVER, THE STRENGTH OF A SOLID FAMILY LIFE ENABLED THE GREEKS TO SURVIVE THEIR ADVERSITIES. EACH MEMBER CONTRIBUTED TO THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL. IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR FAMILIES TO SEND YOUNG BOYS TO ATHENS TO WORK AS SHOESHINE BOYS TO HELP PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE FAMILY.

THE WOMEN, IN ADDITION TO THE MEN, WORKED IN THE

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FIELDS. THE STRENGTH AND PRIDE OF THE GREEK WOMEN WERE DEMONSTRATED IN MAINTAINING THE HOME AND FAMILY, PERPETUATING THE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS AS WELL AS THE GREEK ORTHODOX FAITH.

BY THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN GREECE WERE SUCH THAT THE GREEKS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO EMIGRATE TO AMERICA. MONEY WAS NEEDED, NOT ONLY TO SURVIVE BUT FOR DOWRIES AND FAMILY DEBTS. THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS TURBULENT. IN 1909 CRETAN LIBERAL ELEUTHERIOS VENIZELOS WAS ASKED TO HEAD THE GOVERNMENT BY MILITARY OFFICERS. THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN VENIZELOS AND THE NEWLY CROWNED KING CONSTANTINE I LASTED FOR A GENERATION. THIS STRIFE WAS CARRIED OVER TO AMERICA.

ACCORDING TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE 1976 ANNUAL REPORT, U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, THE FOLLOWING DATA INDICATES THE NUMBER OF GREEK IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA:

1881-1890	-	2,308
1891-1900	-	15,979
1900-1910	-	167,519
1911-1920	-	184,201
1921-1930	-	51,084
1931-1940	-	9,119
1941-1950	-	8,973
1951-1960	-	47,608
1961-1970	-	85,969
1971-1980	-	102,000

PRIOR TO WORLD WAR I ABOUT 90% OF THE IMMIGRANTS WERE MALES. THE MEN COULD BARELY READ AND WRITE AND VERY FEW STUDIED BEYOND THE VILLAGE SCHOOL. THEY HAD

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NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. THEY LIVED TOGETHER, SEVERAL IN ONE ROOM, WITH NO FACILITIES AND DOING THEIR OWN COOKING AND HOUSEKEEPING.

THE MAJOR GREEK CONCENTRATION IN THE NEW ENGLAND AREA WERE KNEELAND AND WASHINGTON STREETS IN BOSTON, HAVERHILL, LOWELL, CHICOPEE, LYNN, PEABODY, NEW BEDFORD AND SPRINGFIELD. SINCE THE GREEKS HAD TO START AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LADDER, THEY WORKED AT ANY AVAILABLE JOB. SOME STARTED WORKING IN THE MILLS. OTHERS WORKED AS BOOTBLACKS, BUSBOYS, OR PEDDLARS OF FRUIT, CANDY OR FLOWERS. AS TIME WENT ON THEY SAVED MONEY TO START THEIR OWN BUSINESS AND BUY THEIR OWN HOME. THEY OPENED THEIR OWN SWEETSHOPS, DRY CLEANERS, SHOESHINE PARLORS, LUNCHEONS AND RESTAURANTS. AS THE BUSINESSES OPENED THE GREEKS HELPED FELLOW GREEKS BY HIRING THEM IN THEIR BUSINESSES. THEY WANTED TO ACQUIRE THE MIDDLE CLASS STANDARDS OF THEIR ADOPTED COUNTRY.

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL GOAL OF THE GREEKS WAS EVIDENT BY THE EARLY GREEK SETTLERS OF EVERETT. PETER OTIS RELATES THE STORY OF HIS FATHER, NICHOLAS HRANYOTIS. MR. HRANYOTIS SETTLED IN EVERETT IN 1910. HE WENT TO SCHOOL TO LEARN VAMPING IN ADDITION TO WORKING AT THE STRIDE RITE SHOE FACTORY. IN 1916, WHEN HE ACQUIRED THE SHOE MAKING SKILL, HE TOOK OVER THE SHOE REPAIR SHOP WHERE THE PRESENT EVERETT SAVINGS BANK BUILDING IS LOCATED. MR HRANYOTIS STAYED IN THIS LOCATION UNTIL 1929 REPAIRING SHOES AND MAKING MOCASSINS WHICH HE SOLD

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TO JORDAN MARSH AND OTHER DEPARTMENT STORES. IN 1929 THE EVERETT SAVINGS BANK BOUGHT THE BUILDING WHICH NECESSITATED HIS MOVE TO 440 BROADWAY. HIS BROTHER, TRIANTAFILLOS {TERRY} AND HE OWNED THE BUILDING AT 440 BROADWAY UNTIL 1970.

BUSINESSES OWNED BY GREEKS IN EVERETT WERE THE FOLLOWING:

PETERS CANDY STORE
447 BROADWAY
OWNED BY: PETER SAKELLOS
SOLD IN 1920

MELLON'S SWEET SHOP
447 BROADWAY
OWNED BY: CHRISTOPHER MELLON
BOUGHT IN 1920 - SOLD IN 1925

MELLON'S SWEET SHOP
447 BROADWAY
OWNED BY: NICHOLAS PETRELLIS
STEVE ALEPIDIS
BOUGHT IN 1925 - SOLD IN 1960

BELMONT LUNCH
449A BROADWAY
OWNED BY: ARISTIDES A. STATHOPOULOS
REMODELED AND RENAMED BELMONT CAFE
BOUGHT IN 1920 - SOLD IN 1942

SCHOPELL'S CAFETERIA
449A BROADWAY
OWNED BY: STAVROS CHOPELAS
BOUGHT IN N/A - SOLD IN N/A

HOWARD LIQUOR STORE
469 BROADWAY
OWNED BY ARISTIDES A. STATHOPOULOS
BOUGHT IN 1941 - SOLD IN 1948

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OTIS BROTHERS SHOE REPAIR
440 BROADWAY
BOUGHT BY: NICHOLAS HRANYOTIS AND
 TRIANAFILLOS HRANYOTIS
BOUGHT IN 1929 - SOLD IN 1970

PETERS CAFETERIA/PARAGON
140 SCHOOL STREET
OWNED BY: VASILIOS THEODORE,
 EVANGELOS A. THEODORE
BOUGHT IN 1929 - SOLD IN 1948

DELUXE RAIL RESTAURANT
444 BROADWAY
OWNED BY: PETER GEORGANTAS
BOUGHT IN 1938 - SOLD IN 1960
BOUGHT BY: VASILIOS AND
 CHRISTOS GEORGOUNTZOS
BOUGHT IN 1960 - SOLD IN 1984

NORWOOD CAFE
NORWOOD STREET
BOUGHT BY: CHRISTOS C. ARVANITES
BOUGHT IN 1943 - SOLD IN 1955

VARGIS DINER
BROADWAY
BOUGHT BY: MANNY VARGIS
BOUGHT IN 1950 - SOLD IN 1970

THERE WERE OTHERS WHO HAD BUSINESSES IN THE CITY FOR
A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THEY ARE LISTED IN THE CENSUS
LIST.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREEK COMMUNITY IN EVERETT
IS PRESENTED AFTER A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE CITY DIRECTORIES
BEGINNING WITH THE YEAR 1870. THE NAMES SELECTED WERE
THOSE RECOGNIZED AS BEING GREEK. A STUDY WAS MADE UP TO
1940. THE COMMUNITY BY THEN HAD BEEN DEVELOPING. AS
YOU WILL NOTE, THE WORK OF THE GREEKS IN THE COMMUNITY

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WERE IN THE BUSINESSES OF SHOE REPAIRING, RESTAURANTS AND FRUIT PEDDLING. ALSO NOTE THAT MANY WORKED IN FELLOW GREEKS' PLACES OF BUSINESS.

FROM 1870 TO 1908 THERE WERE NO RECOGNIZABLE GREEK NAMES IN THE CITY DIRECTORIES. THE GREEK COMMUNITY APPEARED TO BEGIN IN 1910.

THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF EVERETT

1870-1908 - NO NAMES

1910-1911

BOORAS, BROS. FRED AND JOHN
FRUIT CO. 447 BROADWAY

1916

PINAGIOTOPOULOS, ANTONE
PEDDLAR

1918

ANAGNOSTON, HARRY - PORTER
ANGELOPOULOS, GEORGE - FRUIT DEALER
BOORAS, BROS. FRED AND JOHN
BOOTBLACKS 447 BROADWAY
SAKELLAS, PETER-EVERETT CONFECTIONERY CO.

1920

ANGELOPOULOS, GEORGE
GOROSTES, PETER - CONFECTIONER
MELCONES, GEORGE
PATCHIS, PETER
PETERS CANDY STORE {PETER SAKELLOS}
447 BROADWAY
PHYLLIDES, TRIANTAPHYLLAS - SHOEWOPKER
PITSILADIS, JOHN - BAKER
PLAKIS, GEORGE G.
POPULAS, THOMAS - CLERK

1922

ANGELOPLOS, GEORGE
BARLAS, GEORGE {CHARLIE'S HOME BAKERY}
BOORAS, BROS. - BOOTBLACKS
444 BROADWAY
GOCHIS, MAX AND THOMAS - FRUIT PEDDLERS

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1922 {CONT'D}

GOVOSTES, NICHOLAS - CLERK 423 BROADWAY
GOVOSTES, PETER - CONFECTIONER 423 BROADWAY
KANDRES, JAMES - COOK
MELLEN'S - CHRISTOPHER AND STEVEN CONSTANTINO
CONFECTIONERY 447 BROADWAY
NICHOLAS, PETER - WAITER
OTIS, NICHILAS - SHOEWORKER
PHYLLIDES, TRIANTAPHYLLAS - SHOEWORKER
STATHOPOULOS, A.A. - PROP. BELMONT LUNCH
449A BROADWAY
VARRIS LUNCH -
121 BROADWAY

1926 - 1927

CHRISTY, GEORGE - VEGETABLE DEALER
CONSTANTELIS, STELLIOS - MELLEN'S CANDY CO.
COSTONIS, ARTHUR - PRODUCE
GOCHIS, MAX - FRUIT DEALER
GOCHIS, THOMAS - FRUIT DEALER
GOVOSTES, NICK - CONFECTIONER
GOVOSTES, PETER - CONFECTIONER
HRANYOTIS, NICK - OTIS BROS.
HRANYOTIS, THEODORE - SHOEWORKER
HRANYOTIS, TRIANTATELOS - SHOE REPAIR
PENOPOULOS, FRED - VAMPER - SHOE WORKER
PAPPANICHOLAS, LOUIS
PINTSPOULOS, A.
STATHOPOULOS, A.A. BELMONT LUNCH
STATHOPOULOS, GRACE - DISHWASHER
YANAKOPOULOS, JAMES

1928 - 1929

ELIOPOULOS, HARRY - MEAT CUTTER
ELIOPOULOS, LOUIS - SHIPPER
GOVOSTES, WILLIAM - SODA MIXER
LASKARIS, ANGELO - PRODUCE
33 NORWOOD
MELLEN, CHRISTOPHER - CONFECTIONER
MELEONES, JAMES - PRODUCE
PAPOULEAS, THEODORE - CLERK
PAPOULEAS, THOMAS - FRUIT DEALER
PAPPANICHOLAS, LOUIS - MOVED TO ATHENS

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1928-1929 {CONT'D}

PATCHIS, PETER {ANNA} - DRAFTSMAN
PETRELLIS, NICHOLAS - MELLON'S CANDY CO.
SPIRAPULOS, CHRIST
SPIROS, GEORGE
TRIANDAPHYLLOS, TRIANDAPHYLLIDES

1930

ALEPIDI, IGNATIUS - MELLON'S CANDY CO.
GOCHIS, MAX
GOCHIS, THOMAS - FRUIT
GOVOSTES, GEORGE - DRIVER
GOVOSTES, KATHERINE - CLERK
GOVOSTES, NICK - FRUIT
GOVOSTES, PETER
GOVOSTES, WILLIAM - SODA MIXER
HRANYOTIS, NICHOLAS - OTIS BROTHERS
HRANYOTIS, TRIANTAFILOS - SHOE REPAIR
KOULOURIS, ANTHONY - WAITER
MARCOPOULOS, JOHN - SHOE REPAIR -
OTIS BROTHERS
MELEONES, JAMES
PETRINOS, GEORGE - SHOE REPAIR
36 CHELSEA ST.
PETRELLIS, NICK - MELLON'S CANDY CO.
REVELAS, GEORGE - HAT CLEANER
SINOS, JOHN - SHOE REPAIR
738A BROADWAY
STATHOPOULOS, ARISTIDES A. - BELMONT LUNCH
STATHOPOULOS, JOHN - CHEF - BELMONT LUNCH
STATHOPOULOS, CHARLES, COUNTERMAN -
BELMONT LUNCH
STAVRINOS, MARY - TEACHER PUBLIC SCHOOL

1934

ALEPIDI, IGNATIUS - MELLON'S
CHAKALIS, JAMES
CONSTANTELIS, STELIOS
DRACOS, ANDREW - CHEF - BELMONT LUNCH
ELIOPULOUS, WILLIAM - COOK
HRANIOTIS, NICHOLAS - OTIS BROTHERS
HRANIOTIS, TRIANTAFILOS - SHOE REPAIR
LUCAS, PANAGIOTIS - COOK

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1934 {CONT'D}

MARCOPOULOS, JOHN - DRIVER
MELLEN, CHRISTOPHER - CONFECTIONER
MELLEN, NICHOLAS - STUDENT
MELEONES, JAMES - PRODUCE
PATCHIAVOS, JOHN - FRUIT DEALER
PATCHIS, JOHN
PATCHIS, PETER
PETERS CAFETERIA -
 VASILIOS THEODORE, PRESIDENT
 EVANGELOS THEODORE, TREASURER
PETIPAS, THOMAS
PETRELLIS, NICHOLAS - MELLENS CANDY CO.
PHYLLEDES, TRIANTAPHYLLOS - SHOE REPAIR
PLEMENOS, ANASTASIO - DRIVER
STATHOPOULOS, ARISTIDES - BELMONT LUNCH
STATHOPOULOS, JOHN - CHEF - BELMONT LUNCH
STATHOPOULOS, CHARLES - HOWARD WINE AND
 LIQUOR
STAVROPOULOS, CHRIS - FRUIT
TRIANDAPHYLLOS, HARRY - CHEF
TRIANDAPHYLLOS, TRIANTAPHYLLIDES -
 SHOE REPAIR
VUSSES, LOUIS - CHEF - BELMONT LUNCH

1940

ANDROS, JOHN - CHEF
CHRISTY, GEORGE - FRUIT PEDDLER
CONSTANTELIS, STELIOS - RESTAURANT
CONSTANTINE, ERNEST - BUSBOY PARAGON
 CAFETERIA
DOURMAS, ANASTASIOS - SHOE WORKER
DRACOS, ANDREW - COOK BELMONT LUNCH
FILIOS, CHARLES - BOOKKEEPER
GEORGANTAS, PETER - RESTAURANT MANAGER
GOVOSTES, GEORGE - CHEMICAL WORKER
GOVOSTES, NICK
HRANYOTIS, NICK - OTIS BROTHERS
HRANYOTIS, TRIANTAFILOS - OTIS BROTHERS
MARAVAS, PETER - COOK - BELMONT LUNCH
MELLON'S CANDY CO. {MILTON NESTOR,
 NICK PETRELLIS, IGNATIUS ALEPIDI} -
 CONFECTIONERS

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1940 {CONT'D}

PAPOULIAS, THOMAS - PRODUCE PEDDLER
PATCHIAVOS, JOHN - FRUIT DEALER
PATSAVOS, NICHOLAS - CLERK
PETRELLIS, NICHOLAS - MELLONS CANDY CO.
PHYLLIDES, TRIANDAPHYLLOS - SHOE WORKER
PINTSPOPOULOS, CHRISTOS
PLEMENOS, ANASTASIOS
PRODANAS, GEORGE - RESTAURANT MANAGER
REVELAS, GEORGE - BOOTBLACK
STATHOPOULOS, A.A. BELMONT LUNCH -
PRES. TREAS.

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE LIVES OF THE GREEKS. THE CHURCH WAS THE CENTER OF RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. THE GREEK ORTHODOX RELIGION IS A CHRISTIAN FAITH BASED UPON THE HOLY BIBLE AND HOLY TRADITION. THE HOLY BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN REVELATION OF GOD. THE HOLY TRADITION REFERS TO THE ORAL TEACHING WHICH EXISTED IN THE CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES AND THEIR SUCCESSORS, AND THE DECISIONS OF THE REGIONAL AND ECUMENICAL COUNCILS.

THE GREEK ORTHODOX BELIEVE IN THE APOSTLES' CREED, THE HOLY TRINITY, THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS; BAPTISM, CHRISMATION, COMMUNION, CONFESSION, PRIESTHOOD, MARRIAGE AND HOLY UNCTION. THE DIVINE LITURGY IS CELEBRATED SUNDAYS, AND ON FEAST DAYS. THE LITURGY IS THE DIVINE DRAMA OF THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF CHRIST.

SYMBOLISM IS USED IN THE ORTHODOX WORSHIP. IT IS USED IN THE LITURGY, THE SACRAMENTS AND THE VARIOUS RITES. THE USE OF THE ICONS IN THE CHURCH IS PART OF

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THE UNWRITTEN TRADITION OF THE CHURCH. AS VISIBLE SYMBOLS, THE ICONS HELP THE FAITHFUL TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD AND THE SAINTS.

THERE WAS AND STILL IS NO GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN EVERETT. THE FIRST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCHES ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA WERE,

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF NEW ENGLAND
THE ANNUNCIATION
ESTABLISHED: 1905
LOCATION: 47 WINCHESTER STREET, BOSTON
MOVED TO CORNER OF PARKER
AND RUGGLES STREET, BOSTON
IN 1907

DORMITION OF THE VIRGIN MARY
ESTABLISHED: 1916
LOCATION: SOMERVILLE

SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
ESTABLISHED: 1917
LOCATION: CAMBRIDGE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
ESTABLISHED: 1925
LOCATION: 15 UNION PARK, BOSTON

TAXIARCHAE CHURCH
ESTABLISHED: 1937
LOCATION: WATERTOWN

THE GREEKS BELIEVED STRONGLY IN THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR FAITH, LANGUAGE, AND CUSTOMS. THE CHURCH WAS THE MEANS BY WHICH THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED. IN 1907, THE CATHEDRAL ESTABLISHED A PAROCHIAL DAY SCHOOL, EVENING CLASSES, TO TEACH ENGLISH TO THE IMMIGRANTS,

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AND A PROGRAM OF SUNDAY VESPERS AND LECTURES FOR THE YOUTH. AS TIME WENT ON THE PROGRAMS EXPANDED. THE PRESERVATION OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. GREEK WAS OFTEN THE ONLY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME. THUS, THE CATHEDRAL SPONSORED AFTERNOON GREEK CLASSES IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES TO PERPETUATE THE LANGUAGE. FROM 1932 TO 1939 AFTERNOON GREEK CLASSES WERE HELD AT THE DEVENS SCHOOL IN EVERETT ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. AFTERNOON GREEK CLASSES WERE HELD AT EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL IN THE EARLY TO MID-FIFTIES. PRIVATE TUTORS WERE ALSO AVAILABLE.

SINCE FEW FAMILIES HAD CARS, THE CATHEDRAL ESTABLISHED A CHARTERED BUS SYSTEM IN THE VARIOUS CITIES TO TRANSPORT THE GREEK YOUTH TO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUNDAYS. THIS SYSTEM STARTED IN EVERETT IN THE MID FORTIES AND ENDED IN THE LATE FIFTIES. THE BUS MET THE CHILDREN AT A DESIGNATED LOCATION IN EVERETT AND CONTINUED ON TO CHELSEA, WINTHROP, EAST BOSTON AND THEN ON TO THE CATHEDRAL ON PARKER AND RUGGLES STREETS.

IN ADDITION TO THE CHURCH ACTIVITIES, THERE WERE OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH UNITED THE GREEKS FROM THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES. FIRST WERE THE SOCIETIES FOR THOSE WHO CAME FROM A CERTAIN VILLAGE, TOWN OR CITY OF GREECE. SECONDLY, THERE WERE THE SOCIETIES WHICH PROMOTED SPECIAL INTERESTS OF A GROUP, SUCH AS THE HELICON, AN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATES AND

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UNDERGRADUATES OF GREEK DESCENT. THIRDLY, THERE WERE THE SOCIETIES WHICH STROVE TO PROMOTE WHAT IS OF CONCERN TO GREEKS EVERYWHERE, SUCH AS THE AHEPA, THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION.

THE GREEK IMMIGRANTS MADE FULL USE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN. IT WAS CRUCIAL TO THEIR ADJUSTMENT TO THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN SOCIETY. THEY WANTED THEIR CHILDREN TO SUCCEED AND WERE PROUD OF THEIR ACADEMIC SUCCESSES.

THE FOLLOWING GREEK AMERICANS WERE AWARDED THE PARLIN "P" AT THE ALBERT N. PARLIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

FRED PLEMENOS	1944
KATHERINE PLEMENOS	1945
MARINA CONSTANT	1950
LEWIS PATCHIAVOS	1952
ANDREA BOYADGIS	1953
MARLENE GEROKOULIS	1953
MARICA ARVANITES	1954
CHRISTINE BAKINAKIS	1956
ROBERT J. ANASTOS	1980
LISA ANASTOS	1981
HERCULES PAPANTONIOU	1983

THE SECOND GENERATION GREEK AMERICANS, ACCORDING TO THE FIGURES OF THE PAST THREE CENSUS, POSSESS EDUCATIONAL LEVELS EXCEEDED ONLY BY THOSE COMPILED BY JEWS EMIGRATING FROM RUSSIA. ACCORDING TO DR. ANDREW KOPAN, GREEKS ARE AMONG THE MOST AFFLUENT ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE SECOND GENERATION GREEK, BORN OF IMMIGRANT PARENTS, IS ALSO TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE A COLLEGE

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GRADUATE THAN THE AVERAGE AMERICAN. THERE ARE AT LEAST 1500 GREEK AMERICANS WHO HOLD PROFESSIONAL RANKS IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND THERE IS NO MAJOR COMMUNITY WITHOUT GREEK AMERICAN PHYSICIANS, LAWYERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS.

THE SECOND GENERATION GREEKS IN EVERETT EXEMPLIFIED A HIGH REGARD FOR EDUCATION. THE FOLLOWING LISTS A SAMPLING OF GREEK AMERICANS FROM EVERETT AND THEIR PROFESSIONS. THE LIST NAMES THE FATHER, FOLLOWED BY THE CHILDREN.

ALEPIDIS, IGNATIUS
STEVEN - NORTHEASTERN - BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT
DEAN - BOSTON COLLEGE - BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT

ARVANITES, CHRISTOS C.
JAMES - BROWN - CHEMISTRY
BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
PATENT ATTORNEY
THEODORA - BOSTON UNIVERSITY - BANK
OFFICER
MARICA - BOSTON UNIVERSITY - EDUCATOR

GEORGANTAS, PETER
LOUIS - YALE
HARVARD - ATTORNEY

GOCHIS, STATHIS
BESS - BOSTON UNIVERSITY - HOSPITAL
ADMINISTRATOR
EMILY - BOSTON UNIVERSITY - EDUCATOR

MELEONIS, FRED
NICK - BOSTON UNIVERSITY - EDUCATOR

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OTIS, NICHOLAS

PETER - BOSTON UNIVERSITY - LAWYER

OTIS, TERRY

PETER - TUFTS - MEDICAL DOCTOR

MARINA - TUFTS - MEDICAL DOCTOR

PATCHIAVOS, JOHN

LEWIS - UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

ERLANGEN - NEUREMBERG

UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH

PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL
STUDIES - THEOLOGIAN

PLEMENOX, ANASTASIOS

FRED - M.I.T. - ENGINEER

STATHOPOULOS, ARISTIDES, A.

ANTHONY - BOSTON COLLEGE

HARRY - BOSTON COLLEGE

PENELOPE - SIMMONS - DIETITION

THEODORE, E.A.

ANGELA - BOSTON UNIVERSITY - EDUCATOR

ERNEST - BURDETT - BUSINESS

FAITH - UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI - EDUCATOR

THEODORE, VASILIOS

JAMES - BOSTON UNIVERSITY - HOTEL
MANAGEMENT

TSUCALAS, JAMES

JOHN - COLUMBIA

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
FINANCIAL ANALYST

THE GREEK AMERICANS FLOWED INTO THE MAINSTREAM
OF AMERICAN LIFE. THEY NOT ONLY BECAME INVOLVED IN THE
SCHOOLS, BUT PARTICIPATED IN THE MILITARY SERVICE.

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THE FOLLOWING GREEK AMERICANS FROM EVERETT
SERVED IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR:

JAMES C. ARVANITES

PETER BOORAS

GEORGE CHAGGARIS

PETER GOCHIS

WILLIAM GOCHIS

PETER GOVOSTES

GUS GOVOSTES

NICK MELEONIS

THOMAS MELEONIS

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EPILOGUE

BY

JAMES C. ARVANITES, JR.

GRANDSON OF CHRISTOS C. ARVANITES

WHEN THE GREEK IMMIGRANTS STARTED ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS ALMOST A CENTURY AGO, THEY WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN A FAIR CHANCE TO SUCCEED. THAT CHANCE, DENIED TO THE GREEK IMMIGRANT FOR SO MANY YEARS, WAS SUDDENLY REKINDLED IN AMERICA. ONCE ON AMERICAN SOIL, THE GREEK, AT LEAST THEORETICALLY, WAS FREE TO CREATE NEW IDEAS AND TO TURN THOSE INNOVATIONS INTO PROFITABLE VENTURES. MANY OF THESE EARLY GREEKS DID IN FACT MANAGE TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL MEN AND WOMEN.

BUT LIKE MOST IMMIGRANTS, THE LIFE OF THE GREEK IMMIGRANT IN AMERICA WAS PUNCTUATED BY HARDSHIPS AND STRUGGLE. WHEN THEY LANDED IN AMERICA IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED NO FINANCIAL AID FOR NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES AND AS A RESULT, THE GREEKS HAD TO LITERALLY PULL THEMSELVES UP BY THEIR OWN INITIATIVE. THIS WAS NOT EASY BECAUSE MOST OF THE EARLY GREEKS SPOKE LITTLE OR NO ENGLISH AND HAD NO REAL MARKETABLE SKILLS. BECAUSE THEY LIVED IN A SINK OR SWIM TYPE OF ENVIRONMENT, THE GREEK IMMIGRANT WAS ENGRAINED WITH A SENSE OF SELF RELIANCE.

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THESE GREEKS WHO WORKED

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SO HARD TO ETCH OUT A LIVING, INCULCATED THEIR VALUES OF HARDWORK UPON THEIR OFFSPRING. BY THE TIME MANY GREEK IMMIGRANTS WERE READY TO MARRY AND RAISE A FAMILY, THEY KNEW THE INGREDIENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE IN AMERICA - HARD WORK AND EDUCATION.

EDUCATION WAS SHUT OFF TO MANY GREEK IMMIGRANTS IN GREECE AND IN THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF A LACK OF MONEY. BUT THIS DID NOT UNDERMINE THE GREEK IMMIGRANT'S DETERMINATION TO SEE HIS CHILDREN GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE. THE EARLY GREEK PUT ASIDE MONEY FOR THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, AND URGED HIS SON OR DAUGHTER TO EXCEL IN ACADEMICS. MANY OF THEM TOOK THE ADVICE - SECOND GENERATION GREEKS PERVADE THE LAW PROFESSION, THE MEDICAL FIELD AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL AREAS.

ALTHOUGH THE GREEK IMMIGRANT HAS A SPECIAL ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES, PRIDE HAS NEVER LET HIM FORGET HIS GREEK HERITAGE. HE HAS, IN TURN, PASSED ON HIS LANGUAGE, CUSTOMS AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO HIS CHILDREN.

MANY SECOND GENERATION GREEKS HAVE TWO FACETS TO THEIR LIVES, A GREEK SIDE AND AN AMERICAN SIDE. WHILE THE MAJORITY OF SECOND GENERATION GREEKS HAVE BECOME THOROUGHLY IMMERSSED IN AMERICAN CULTURE, THEY STILL PRESERVE THE GREEK LANGUAGE AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS BROUGHT OVER BY THEIR PARENTS, THE FIRST GREEK IMMIGRANTS.

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SUGGESTED READINGS

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